

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES

OF PHILADELPHIA.

VOL. III. JULY AND AUGUST, 1847. No. 10.

Stated Meeting, July 6, 1847.

VICE PRESIDENT MORTON in the Chair.

DONATIONS TO MUSEUM.

The following collection of rare and valuable shells, principally from the East Indies and the South Seas, was presented by Dr. Wilson; viz:—

Helix *Busbyii*, 1 specimen; *Bulimus* *Downsii*, 4; *B. mindorensis*, 3; *B.* (undescribed) from Venezuela, 1; *B. do. do.*, 2; *B. citrinus*, 2; *B. do. reversed*, 2; *B. Funchii*, 1; *Cardium multipunctatum*, 1; *Pyrula* *Mawei*, 1; Bivalve (undescribed, from Japan,) 1; *Murex tenuispinosus* and operculum, 1; *Conus regius* (*princeps*), 2; *Trochus Guilfordii*, 1; *Ovula volva*, 1; *Ranella imperialis*, 2; *Oliva undata*, (white) 2; *Trigonia pectinata*, 2; *Rostellaria Powisii*, 1; *Voluta Delesertii*, 1; *Carinaria vitrea*, 1; *Cypræa vitellus* (white), 3; *Scalaria varicosa*, 2; *Cyclostoma inca*, 3; *Unio discus?* 1 valve; *Ostrea iris* (*prismatica*), 1; *Nœra longirostra*, 1; *N. undescribed*, 1; *Helicina* (undescribed, from Venezuela), 2; *Spondylus gæderopus*, 1; *Auricula Caledonica*.

Dr. Wilson also presented a collection of British shells, consisting of 65 specimens: also seven masses of *Anatifa*, *Sabella*, *Spatangus*, *Balanus*, *Serpula*, and *Velhella*.

Dr. R. E. Griffith presented a collection of shells comprising

41 specimens of *Fusus*, 11 of *Pyruia*, 8 of *Fasciolaria*, 26 of *Turbinella*, and 56 of *Pleurotoma*.

Mr. T. C. Percival presented several specimens of Minerals from Montgomery County, Penn. Also, some very fine specimens of the fruit of *Vanilla aromatica*, both wild and cultivated, from Tamaulipas, Mexico.

A specimen in skin, of *Garrulus peruvianus*, and one of *Icterus cucullatus*, from Mexico. Presented by Major G. A. McCall, U. S. A.

Prof. Johnson announced that the collection of Chemical apparatus of Mr. Henry Seybert, together with his library of Chemical works, had been received, and were now on deposit in the Institution. The apparatus consists of 1500 pieces of the following descriptions:—

Among the articles of glass are large assortments of digesters, phials, tincture bottles, jars, globular receivers, matrasses, tubes, funnels, alembics, retorts, conical foot glasses, air pump receivers, precipitating jars, syphons, eudiometers, alkalimeters, mercurial bath receivers, adapters, areometers for all liquids, with 250 reagents and other preparations in jars and phials. The *porcelain ware* includes capsules with sockets, evaporating dishes, mortars and pestles, plain and branched tubes, calcining tests, funnels, plates, retorts, cups, &c. The *earthen ware* embraces fire-clay "tests," crucibles, retorts, crucible covers and stands, assay furnaces, chauffers, muffles, cupels, &c. The *platina* includes covered crucibles, forceps, spatula, spoon, wire, plate, foil and grains. Among the *miscellaneous articles* are agate mortars, chemical lamps, mouth and table blowpipes, portable forge, Papin's digesters, leaden tubes, assayer's table, blowpipe table and bellows, a work table, a variety of furnace implements, and other furniture essential to an analytical laboratory. The *scales* and *weights* are in *six* cases, and of sizes adapting them to different chemical researches.

The Library contains 259 volumes, by the following authors:

Thenard, Haüy, Brard, Beudant, Orfila, Richerand, Magendie, Gay Lussac, Bergmann, Murray, Foureroy, Kapeler and Caventou, Jourdan, Karsten, Ure, Thompson, Mirbel, Faraday, De Lisle, Chaptal, Berthollet, Klaproth, Sage, Cramer, Priestly, Black, Schmeiser, Kirwan, Brongniart, Berthier, Lucas, Humboldt, Park, Jameson, Accum, Ingenhouz, Spallanzani, Chevreul, Homassel, Lavoisier, Bache, Lewis, Maquer, Henry, Payen and Chevallier,

Vitalis, Berzelius, Aiken, Cuvier, Stromeyer, Burat, and Rose; together with 44 volumes of the *Annales de Chimie*, and 47 volumes of the *Annales de Chimie et de Physique*.

DONATIONS TO LIBRARY.

A voyage round the world in the years 1800 to 1809, in which the author visited the principal islands in the Pacific Ocean, and the English settlements of Port Jackson and Norfolk Island. By John Turnbull. 3 vols. 12mo. London, 1805. From Dr. Joseph Leidy.

The Literary Record and Journal of the Linnean Association of Penn. College. Vol. 3. No. 9. From the Association. Review of Dr. M. Gay's statement of Dr. Jackson's claims to the discovery of the inhalation of ether as a preventive of pain. By J. B. S. Jackson, M. D. From the author.

De Candolle's *Prodromus*, Pars 7, sectio posterior. Purchased by Academy to complete its series.

Dr. Wilson deposited the following works:

A History of the fossil fruits and seeds of the London Clay: by James Scott Bowerbank, F. G. S. Part 1. 8vo. London: 1840.

Illustrations of the Geology of Yorkshire: by John Phillips, F. R. S., &c. Part 1, the Yorkshire Coast; Part 2, the Mountain limestone District. 4to. London: 1835-36.

Iconographie Ornithologique: par O. Des Murs. 8th Liv.

Spicilegia Ornithologica exotica. Auctore J. F. Brandt. Fascic. 1. 4to. Petropoli: 1839.

The Animal Kingdom of the Baron Cuvier, enlarged and adapted to the present state of Zoological Science; illustrated after the original drawings of Audebert, Baraband, Cuvier, &c., (comprising Mammalia, orders Bimana, Quadrumania and Cheiroptera.) 2 vols. in one. 4to. Edinburgh: 1839.

Description des Coquilles fossiles des environs de Paris: par G. P. Deshayes. Tomes 1 and 2, and Atlas, 4to. Paris: 1824.

Monographie des plantes fossiles du Grés Bigarré de la Chaîne des Vosges : par W. P. Schimper et A. Mougeot. 1 vol. 4to. Leipzig: 1844.

Mr. James Read presented the following works:—

Calendrier de Flore ; ou études de fleurs d'après nature : par Madame V. D. C. ; 3 vols. 8vo. Paris, 1802.

Traite des Jardins ; ou le nouveau de la Quintinye, &c.; par M. L. B. : 4 vols. 8vo. Paris 1775.

Dr. Robert E. Griffith deposited a large collection of valuable works, many of them very rare : viz :—

D. Georgii Rudolphi Boehmeri Bibliotheca scriptorum Historiæ naturalis Œconomix aliarumque artium ac scientiarum ad illam pertinentium realis systematica. 9 vols. 8vo. Leipzig. 1685 to 1789.

Recreatio mentis et oculi, in observatione animalium testaceorum curiosis naturæ inspectoribus Italico sermone primum propositæ A. P. Phillippo Bonanno, 1 vol. 4to. Rome, 1684.

Deliciæ Cobresianæ ; J. P. Cobres Buchersammlung zur Naturgeschichte. 2 vols. 8vo.

Fauna Groenlandica ; systematica sistens animalia Groenlandiæ occidentalis hactenus indagata, &c., secundum proprias observationes Othonis Fabricii. 1 vol. 8vo. 1780.

Zoologiæ Danicæ Prodromus ; seu animalium Daniae et Norvegiæ indigenarum characteres, nomina, et synonyma imprimis popularium. Auctore Othone Friderico Müller. 1 vol. 8vo., 1776.

Synopsis novorum generum, specierum, et varietatum testaceorum viventium anno 1834 promulgatorum, &c. Auctore Th. Müller. 1 vol. 8vo., 1836.

Bibliotheca Physico-medica. Zu finden bei Leopold Voss in Leipzig. 1 vol. 8vo., 1835.

Jo. Jacob. Baieri Sciagraphia Musei sui accedunt supplementa Oryctographiæ Noricæ cum figuris æneis. 1 vol. 4to., 1730.

- Classes Conchyliorum. Auctore Carolo Augusto de Bergen.
1 vol. 4to. 1760.
- Kleine beytrage zur Testaceotheologie oder zur erkantniss
Gottes aus den Conchylien in einigen sendschreiben heraus-
gegeben. 4to. Frankfort and Leipzig: 1760.
- De corporibus marinis lapidiscantibus quæ defossa reperiuntur;
auctore Augustino Scilla; addita dissertatione Fabii Colum-
næ de Glossopetris. 4to. 1747.
- Enumeratio Molluscorum Siciliae cum viventium tum in tel-
lure tertiaria fossilium, quæ in itinere suo observavit auctor
Rudolphus Amandus Phillippi. 4to. Vol. 2d: 1844.
- Joann. Bapt. Bohadsch, de quibusdam animalibus marinis.
eorumque proprietatibus, orbi litterario vel nondum vel
minus notis. 4to. 1761.
- Recherches sur l'usage des feuilles dans les plantes, et sur
quelques autres sujets relatifs a l'histoire de la vegetation.
Par Charles Bonnet. 4to. 1754.
- Jacobi Theodori Klein tentamen methodi Ostracologicæ, sive
dispositio naturalis Cochlidum et Concharum in suas clas-
ses, genera et species, &c. 4to. 1753.
- Jani Planci Ariminensis de Conchis minus notis liber, &c.
4to. 1750.
- Gerardi Blasii Amstelrædamensis Anatome Animalium. 4to.
1681.
- Della storia naturale marina dell' Adriatico. Saggio de Sig-
nor dottore Vitaliano Donati giuntavi una lettera del Signor
dottore Lionardo Sesler. 4to. 1750.
- Rariora Musei Besleriani quæ olim Basilius et Michael Ru-
pertus Besleri collegerunt; nunc commentariolo illustrata
a Johanne Henrico Lochnero. Folio. 1716.
- Opere postume del Conte Giuseppe Giovanni Ravennate.
Folio. 1755.
- Thesaurus imaginum Piscium Testaceorum, quæ Georgius E.
Rumphius, M. D. collegit. Folio. 1711.
- Zoophylacium Gronovianum, exhibens Animalia quæ in
Musco suo adservavit, examini subjectit, systematice dis-

- posuit atque descripsit Laur. Theod. Gronovius, J. U. D. Folio. 1781.
- Musæum calceolarianum Veronense ab Andrea Chiocco, 4to.
- Jacobi Breynii Opera: (viz., Fasciuli rariorum plantarum; Icones et descriptiones rariorum plantarum: J. P. Breyni Jacobi filii dissertatio botanico-medica de radica Ginseng, seu Nisi, et Chrysanthem Bidente Zeylanico acmella dicto: Epistola de Melonibus petrefactis Montis Carmel; Dissertatio physica de Polythalamiis.) 4to. 1739.
- Descriptiones Tubulorum Marinorum, &c., secundum dispositionem Musei Kleiniani. 4to. 1731.
- Ueber den innern bau der see und einiger anslandischen erd und Flusschneecten. Ein bersuch von Johann Samuel Schræter. 4to. 1783.
- D. Joh. Fr. Blumenbach's Handbuch der Naturgeschichte. 12mo. 1799.
- The Conchologist's Book of Species, containing 600 species of Univalves. By Sylvanus Hanly, B. A. 2d edition. 8vo. London, 1842.
- Kritisches Register zu Martini und Chemnitz's Systematischem Konchylien-kabinet von Dr. E. Pfeiffer. 8vo. 1840.
- British Marine Conchology: a descriptive catalogue of the Salt-water Shells of Great Britain. By Charles Thorpe. 12mo. London 1844.

Letters were read:

From Dr. Wm. A. Bromfield, dated June 25, 1847; from Wm. H. Edwards, Esq., dated New York, 29th June, 1847; from George N. Lawrence, Esq., dated New York, 28th June, 1847; and from Major Geo. A. McCall, U. S. A., dated Philadelphia, July 2d, 1847, severally acknowledging the receipt of their notices of election as Correspondents.

From Col. J. J. Abert, U. S. Topograph. Engineers, relating to an Aerolite, which fell on the 25th of Feb. last, nine miles from the town of Marion, Iowa; and enclosing a fragment of the same.

From Henry Seybert, Esq., dated Philadelphia, July 5, 1847, in reference to the deposit of his chemical apparatus and books in the Institution, the conditions of the deposit being, that the whole is to become the property of the Society, unless withdrawn by himself during his life-time, under the usual rules regulating such deposits.

From Richard Brown, Esq, dated Sydney Mines, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, addressed to the Corresponding Secretary, of which the following is an extract:

“ During the last winter months I frequently went into the Pits, and rejoice to say was rewarded by the discovery of some remarkable fossils in the roof of the seam. One was an upright *Lepidodendron* 12 inches diameter, with roots spreading out in all directions to a distance of 7 to 8 feet from the stem. The roots near their junction with the stem, present rhomboidal markings combined with areolæ of *stigmariæ*—nearer to the extremities of the roots, the rhomboidal spaces disappear and the surface assumes the appearance of true *stigmariæ*. A pith or core of iron pyrites is found in some of the roots. I sent drawings and descriptions of this fossil to Mr. Bunbury about a month ago. You will probably see them in the London Geological Journal, for August next.

I have also got another remarkable fossil, a complete root-stock of a dome-shaped figure, but the stem had been broken short off, and the bark squeezed together by the mud deposited upon it. It is covered with a coaly bark 10th of an inch thick; presents leaf scars arranged in double lines similar to the *Sigillaria alternans* of Lindley and Hutton. Roots spread out in all directions, marked with areolæ of *stigmariæ*; but what is most curious, the under side of the root exhibits a series of short, obtuse tap roots, arranged nearly in a circle—these are marked with scars similar to *stigmariæ*. The under side of the root is also covered with a thin coaly bark—the vertical tap roots are 3 inches long, 2 in diameter at their junction with the root-stocks, and terminate downwards in an obtuse point, the shape being fusiform, or not unlike a short carrot.

In addition to these, I have got some fine specimens of fossil fruits from the same locality. They appear to have been similar to those of *Pandanus*; the seeds being arranged on the surface and continuing in towards the centre. Before compression they probably resembled a fluted melon in shape, and were as large.”

Prof. Hare presented a Synopsis of his paper on Electricity (read at a late meeting of the Academy,) which being designed

for publication in the Journal, as the commencement of said paper, was referred to the same committee.

On motion of Prof. Johnson, *Resolved*, that the thanks of the Academy be presented to Mr. H. Seybert for his liberality in depositing for the use of this Institution, to an indefinite period, his extensive and valuable chemical apparatus and collection of works on chemistry.

Stated Meeting, July 13, 1847.

MR. PHILLIPS in the Chair.

DONATIONS TO MUSEUM.

Six teeth of *Physeter macrocephalus*, in different stages; and two very fine specimens of recently crystallized Carbonate of Lime, obtained from an aqueduct upon the Erie Canal. Presented by Dr. R. E. Griffith.

A mass of granite containing fine specimens of Tourmaline and crystallized Feldspar. From Mr. Kilvington.

Dr. Griffith presented an additional collection of Shells, consisting of 57 specimens of *Cardium*, 4 of *Cypricardia*, 31 of *Bulimus*, and 118 of *Helix*.

A collection of 200 species of Irish Shells. Presented by Wm. Thompson, Esq., President of the Belfast Society of Nat. Hist.

Five specimens of *Sertularia*, three of *Spongia*, and one of *Flustra*, from England. Presented by Dr. Wilson.

Prof. Johnson presented a set of Liebig's apparatus for analysing organic substances.

The Curators exhibited two skeletons of the Hybrid birds between the Guinea fowl and Turkey, and between the former and the common domestic fowl, both of which were recently presented in a living state to the Academy.